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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4736

INFO RUEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1632

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BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6579

DEPT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

FOR ACDA AND IO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UN, UR, US, MX

SUBJ: UNGA DISARMAMENT: SALT RESOLUTION

1, DURING MORNING OF DEC, 4 DELEGATION UNDERTOOK VIGOROUS LOBBYING EFFORT TO PROMOTE NEGATIVE VOTE ON PART OF USSR, AND ABSTENTIONS ON PART OF US ALLIES, ON SALT RESOLUTION. MAIN LINE OF ARGUMENT WAS THAT THIS YEAR'S RES WAS SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN PREVIOUS ONES, ON WHICH US HAD ABSTAINED, IN THAT IT OFFENSIVELY AND UNFAIRLY DISPARAGED RESULTS ACHIEVED THUS FAR, INCLUDING VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, IN VERY COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT SALT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH INVOLVED VITAL INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF STATES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, BUT OF THEIR ALLIES AS WELL.

2, INITIAL EFFECT OF THIS ACTIVITY WAS INFORMAL MEXICAN OFFER, RELAYED BY NETHERLANDS AND DANISH DELS, TO REPLACE "DEPLORES" WITH "REGRETS" IN OPERATIVE PARA 1 RELATING TO ALLEGED "ABSENCE OF POSITIVE RESULTS" DURING LAST TWO YEARS OF SALT BILATERALS. US DEL RESPONDED THAT THIS, WHILE MODEST IMPROVEMENT, CERTAINLY WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD RES AS A WHOLE WHICH WOULD REMAIN INACCURATE IN SUBSTANCE AND OFFENSIVE IN TONE.

3, AT LUNCH, US REP MARTIN POINTED OUT TO SEVERAL NATO MEMBER COLLEAGUES THAT NATO ALLIES WERE KEPT FULLY INFORMED REGARDING SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT MANY PROBLEMS IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WERE DIRECTLY RELATED TO ALLIES'S SECURITY CONCERNS.

4, IN RESPONSE TO US APPROACHES, ROSCHIN (USSR REP)

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State Department review completed

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TOLD MARTIN THAT SOV DEL HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. HE SUGGESTED URGENT INTERVENTION IN MOSCOW ON BEHALF OF CHANGED INSTRUCTIONS IF US FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT SALT RES. DENMARK, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS, CANADA, AND JAPAN SAID THEY WOULD REFER QUESTION OF ABSTAINING URGENTLY TO THEIR CAPITALS. TURKEY, BELGIUM, FRG, LUXEMBOURG, ITALY, FRANCE, AND UK SAID THEY PLANNED TO ABSTAIN. AUSTRALIAN DELOFF SAID HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY REPORT US APPROACH TO CANBERRA. HE POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIAN CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WAS BOUND BY POLICIES OF ITS PREDECESSOR GOVERNMENT AND THAT AUSTRALIA HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF THAT YEAR'S SALT RES. THEREFORE, TO CHANGE POSITION GOA MUST CONVINCE ITSELF PRESENT RES WAS IN FACT "SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE," GREEK DELOFF SAID GREECE WAS ABSTAINING IN LIGHT OF US DEMARCHE. MOYNIHAN